

Silhouette

Vol. 71

No. 7

Ambridge Area High School

April 1997

Happy experiences are really terrific

by Carole Bunting

On April 4, the Ambridge High School Student Council hosted the 1997 PASC (Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils) District 2 Spring Conference. Over 400 students and advisors from schools throughout District 2 came to Ambridge Area High School, where they listened to an energetic speaker, Patrick T. Grady, played games dealing with leadership and teamwork and had lots of fun. Memories from the HEART (Happy Experiences Are Really Terrific) was the theme for the conference.

"It went really well. Everyone had a great time. It was a good idea to play games [instead of having workshops] because it got everyone involved," said Junior Kelly Lee Lavin of her experience at



the conference.

Agreeing with Kelly, Senior Angie Koban, vice-president of the student council, said, "It went really well; people really enjoyed it. It was simply tons of fun for everyone."

Members of the student council spent months preparing for this conference. Extra meetings were held to train the members to be gamemasters and to make decorations. "It was a lot of hard work, but it was worth every minute

of it," stated Junior Jennifer Diana Heinemann.

The games were played to help students develop leadership and teamwork and to teach them that working together is fun and extremely productive. Dominic A. Mecchia, a junior, summed up his feelings on leadership in three words, "Leadership is cool."

Sophomore John Dingfelder said, "Everyone had a lot of fun. I hope we have another conference

soon."

The end result of the conference was dynamic. Students left with a greater understanding of leadership and teamwork and many memories of their happy experiences at Ambridge Area High School. Students from our school ended their day with proud feelings of a job well done. Junior Angela Michelle Roppo said, "I have partaken in one of the best conferences I have ever experienced, and it was swell."

Expressing her feelings on the success of the conference, Senior Marie Persi, Student Council President, said, "This conference is one of the biggest events this council has seen in a while--it was definitely worth all the time and hard work. Everybody adored the school and had bushels of fun."

Play put a spell on Ambridge

by Mike Dwyer

From April 17-19 the high school auditorium was transformed into a teenage hippie chapel for the presentation of *Godspell*, the seventies theatre classic.

Godspell is an adaptation of the gospel according to Saint Matthew written by John-Michael Tebelak with music by Steven Schwartz. It is a two-act, in-your-face musical in which the performers use the entire auditorium, including the aisles. When asked how the actors kept up their energy over the full two-and-a-half hours of the play, Senior Nicole Hill stated, "I think it has a lot to do with the director's powers of mind contr...*Godspell*...I love *Godspell*."

Directing Ambridge's play was Jeff DeVincent, a 1982 graduate of Ambridge High School. DeVincent has directed or performed in *Godspell* 11 times since his first experience with it at Geneva College. Although DeVincent directed high school students, in no way did he direct on a high school level.

"Sometimes it was hard, but he only wants the best, so it was all worth it," said Junior Greg Kouvol, who portrayed John the Baptist/Judas.

Kouvol and Doug Pickens, who played Jesus, displayed their long history of theatre and carried the show. The show also featured several strong musical performances. Lesley Smith wowed the crowd in

"Turn Back, O Man," Cristina Aloe delivered "O Bless the Lord My Soul," and Pickens and Kouvol performed the vaudevillian "All for the Best." An especially strong performance was given by Charissa Clark and Michelle Panutsos in their song "By My Side," which left many

audience members in tears. "It's a very powerful song," said Panutsos.

In the past two years, Ambridge theatre was among the worst in the area. Twenty-four students set out to change that. Mission accomplished.

In This Issue...

- * Earth Day is coming...But does anyone care?
- * Mike Dwyer asks the question: Could you last a week without telling a lie?
- * An article about the history of T.S.A.
- * A special feature on Senior Jim Neese
- * A letter from Ambridge School Board member Bill Pangas
- * Editorials, Reviews, coverage of Ambridge Sports and much more!

Sizing It Up

by Nicole Webb

Turn on the TV, and more than likely, you will see actors and actresses who are not only beautiful, but are also thin and in shape. From the rock hard abs of the cast of *Baywatch*, to the thin stars of *General Hospital*, from the commercial advertisement for Bally Scandinavian gyms to the weight loss books written by TV and movie personalities, the entertainment industry has set the stage. To be popular, happy and powerful, you must be thin.

In Hollywood if a celebrity gains weight, they are mocked and shunned. For example, Alicia Silverstone, star of *Clueless* and *The Crush*, attended last year's Oscars despite the fact that she had just gained 5-10 pounds. Her weight gain caused a media frenzy. Headlines, pertaining to her role in the next *Batman* sequel, screamed

"Batman and Fatgirl!" and "Look out Batman! Here comes Buttgirl!" Silverstone refused to comment on the criticism. She hired a personal trainer and was not seen again until she had dropped back down to her original weight.

The criticism of Silverstone's weight and other Hollywood stars has had disastrous consequences on society. People around the country see how harshly she and other stars are treated and begin to think that there is something wrong with them because their waist is not the "perfect" size. Sadly, many begin to starve themselves or binge and purge in an effort to look like their favorite star. Adolescents are the most likely to buy into Hollywood's standard of the perfect body. What they do not realize is that Hollywood's standards are not only unrealistic, but they can also be deadly.

"We're evolving toward an unnatural view of beauty," says Los

Angeles social psychologist Debbie. Then, "thin women with huge breasts and stick legs like those of a 12-year-old. What real women's bodies look like is labeled wrong and unattractive." The majority of Miss America contestants are now 15 percent below the recommended body weight for their height. Such a low percentage of body weight is considered a symptom of anorexia nervosa.

Today, it is not enough to be just thin. Now, it seems you must be thin and physically fit. The problem is when a person works out, their caloric needs become greater. If they are uneducated on how to fuel their body, or choose not to fuel it at all, they can suffer lifelong consequences. Many people strive to achieve the washboard ab look. Surprisingly, having a washboard stomach is unhealthy for many women (unless they are naturally lean throughout the middle). The

women who appear in ab commercials and advertisements have less than 10 percent body fat, compared with the average woman who has 24 percent. Being that thin can affect levels of estrogen and contribute to bone deterioration.

No one is willing to accept the blame for America's recent obsession with weight loss. Model agencies blame fashion magazines. Movie producers blame television producers. It does not matter who is to blame. What matters is that Americans have become out of touch with how the human body should look.

Many people devote much of their time to losing weight when they could be spending time helping others, making the world a better place and making themselves better people. Happiness is not measured by your waist size. You can only find true happiness by being secure in who you are on the inside.

A Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor and *Silhouette* staff,

I am enjoying another year of your fine school newspaper. You are all doing a great job! For instance, the most realistic rating ever given the *Star Wars Trilogy* was Joe Kulik's twenty star rating. My son Sam and I saw the enhanced *Return of the Jedi* on Sunday and it was awesome. Mr. Kulik, you may quote me. Nicole Webb's article "What is the value of life?" was excellent and true. As always, I enjoy the many articles about students.

Did I miss the article on Mole Day? Isn't that a *Silhouette* tradition? Did anyone think of "Mole money"?

Last year I told you I would try to be more sensitive to you with regard to our sports programs. Well, I think the school board has done a lot to start making things better. Our new athletic director, Mr. Grogan, has been doing a great job working with coaches and booster groups. He analyzed our entire program and wrote a comprehensive document describing where we are and how to get to where we want to be. We brought on some new coaches who are trying to build a program from the younger kids up. And we're on our way toward getting a fitness center that will help the physical education program and various sporting teams. Hopefully we'll be able to allocate more money towards sports in this year's budget. No matter how exciting sports are (talking about sports excitement, have you seen our hockey team?), please remember that academics are more important.

Carole Bunting quoted me in her article about the proposed school district name change. Thankfully that idea has been dropped. The school board and administration have been doing quite a few things to try to make the district better in a substantive way. I refer primarily to our technology initiatives, the new elementary building, and an evaluation and eventual strengthening of academics from kindergarten through the twelfth grade. I think these are the things we need to do to promote a better image of our district.

This year I got to talk to a few of you in the high school and really enjoyed it. I wish there was more interaction between the school board and students, primarily at the senior high. I did ask administration to see if we could come up with a way to allow for more dialogue between us. You

students are the focus of every board member. We wish you every success in life.

Bill Pangas

Silhouette

Ambridge Area High School
909 Duss Avenue Ambridge, PA 15003

Doug Costa
Editor-in-Chief

Erin McBroom/Bonnie Marr
News Editors

Bryan Hooks
Sports Editor

Jaime Cole
Layout Editor

Mike Cody
Assistant Editor

Peggy Madonna
Copy Editor

Mike Dwyer
Correspondence Editor

Reporters

Carole Bunting Rich Dugan Sarah Clark Kristie Miller Jennifer Richards

Computer Design
Andy Mine

Mr. Dennis DeAngelis
Newspaper Advisor

Katie Madonna
Opinion Editor

Emily DelGreco
Feature Editor

Nicole Webb
Business Manager

Joe Kulik
Graphics/Cartoonist

Photography
Joe Kulik/Rich Kuzma/Missy Smoley

Mr. James J. LaSalle
Computer Advisor

The SILHOUETTE is the student newspaper of Ambridge Area High School. It is a laboratory for students pursuing the field of journalism and is designed to serve the total school community.

The SILHOUETTE will be a public forum for the exchange of comment and criticism, open to students, faculty, administration, parents, and others in the school community. The SILHOUETTE is the official school newspaper published once a month at the cost of 25 cents per issue. It is printed by the Record Printing Company of Ambridge.

The editorial opinion is that of the Editorial Board. Any letters to the editor may be submitted to any member of the staff or to the newspaper in Room B-8. Letters received are subject to review by the Board before publication.

Liar! Liar! Pants on fire

by Mike Dwyer

In Jim Carrey's new movie, *Liar Liar*, a lawyer's son wishes that his father would stop lying. The wish comes true and the lawyer, played by Carrey, is forced to unfaithfully tell the truth, leading to several zany situations. As I saw the previews for this film, I wondered why always telling the truth was such an outrageous premise. Aren't you supposed to tell the truth? Why is this so unbelievable?

To answer these questions, I decided to try an experiment. I resolved that I would not lie for an entire week. It wasn't filled with madcap, zany situations, but it was a learning experience to say the least.

The first thing that I learned is there is no limit to the perversion an honest person can be subjected to. Maybe it's the hormones of high school kids, or maybe Ambridge

students were particularly repressed as children, but whichever it is, it is apparent that we are all in need of counseling. But, in all seriousness, it was not all the perverted questions, but the questions that were not asked that disturbed me. For a whole week, my mind was an open book for anyone to read and they missed it. Either our values are way out of whack, or no one cares what I think. (If that were true, however, would you be reading this article?)

I never realized how much I lie to make others happy. Somewhere along the way, I learned to use lying to avoid unwanted conflict. For example, if a classmate asks, "Do you like my hair?" Although your mind may scream "NO!" You will undoubtedly say "yes" so you will not trample on your classmate's self-esteem. I think we all have lied to prevent someone

from being hurt. A small lie can be a lot easier than the actual truth. On the other hand, if someone asks for your honest opinion, shouldn't you give it to them? Just a little food for thought from your faithful correspondent.

It is easy to tell a stranger the truth, because you have nothing to lose. What's really hard is being completely honest with your friends. There are certain things about all of our friends that we dislike, but we fear that telling them will hurt them. The most trying part of the entire week was when one of my closest friends asked, "So, Dwyer, what do you think of me?" I told him. Some people might have been angered by my response. But, it was the truth, and that is what he asked for. I told him what I disliked about him and he accepted it as my personal opinion. I guess that is what real friendship is.

The week of honesty was a

liberating experience. It was a great relief not worrying about whose toes I was going to step on, or what people would think of what I said. I wasn't playing any games, telling people what they wanted to hear, being subtle or coy. I was just being me. When people talked to me, they knew exactly what they were getting: the truth. If they didn't want an honest answer, they didn't ask. That's the way it should be.

Being honest isn't outrageous, it isn't awful, and most of all, it isn't impossible. It is something small that can be changed with a little willpower. Maybe you can't be honest 100 percent of the time, but if there's one thing I learned, it's that cutting down on lying is something that can make you a better person. I just might extend this "week of truth" indefinitely. Honest.

Requirements limit students

by Peggy Madonna

It's that time of year for students to again flip through their scheduling books and make the decisions that will effect their entire high school careers. But freshmen and sophomores seem to be extremely stressed out this year. For them, the question no longer lies in which interests they like to pursue, but the common concern among students is, "How am I going to fit in all of these required courses before I graduate?"

I think that by making students so frustrated, which many are, the students are actually being discouraged. They are taking even less care when making their schedules. Many opportunities and personal freedoms are being taken away from students by telling them that, in addition to the regular classes, they must also take: technology systems, ultimate consumer/practical parenting, personal computing and career planning. It may not sound like such a heavy load, but if you are involved

in other classes such as music, language and art it is hard to find time to take courses that you would never be inclined to take if you weren't required to do so.

Because of this, many have had to forfeit their own interests and, in most cases, their lunch period.

I think that it is really upsetting to be told to take these classes and as useful as they may be, they may not be right for everyone. I do know that my intelligence is being underestimated. I feel that I am competent enough to make sensible choices concerning my future - I am very capable of making a serious decision.

But I also see that no higher authorities are overlooking freshmen and sophomores during scheduling time. I know a few students who have yet to take any of the additional courses, and don't plan on taking them either. Supposedly, if you don't meet these requirements you will not graduate, not that this has really been made clear by anyone. Shouldn't someone stress the importance of not graduating? Maybe a notice should have been passed out to ensure that everybody

understands what is required of them.

I foresee quite a controversy the year of my graduation when some of my classmates come to the realization that they may not graduate if the requirements aren't changed by then. Will some of these very intelligent, straight A students really not graduate? Will exceptions be made? I think that there will be many, many problems if this happens. What about all of the students who sacrificed lunch and other interests to meet the requirements?

Basically, I do not agree with any of this. I strongly see a lack of consideration to students. By taking away our own interests, by not allowing us the time to take all of the classes we really want to take, the students' educations are being bypassed in favor of educational fads.



**Beaver Valley
Pregnancy Support Center**

**Offering free, confidential care to young women faced
with unplanned pregnancies.**

♥ Pregnancy Tests ♥ Accurate Information On
Abortion Risks, Procedures & Alternatives ♥
♥ Teen Pregnancy Support & Referrals ♥ Post
Abortion Concerns

**Call Today
728-5550**

We Care About Your Future

Decline in disciplinary actions

by Katie Madonna

Ambridge Area High School students and faculty have something to be very proud of.

As of February of this year, total disciplinary actions in the high school show a major decline since the 1994-95 school year.

Of the 32 categories, such as fighting, insubordination and cutting class, only three have shown a noticeable increase. Expulsion was up to eight offenses as of February.

There were none through 1994-96. Dr. Parry accounted for the increase because of the new, more strict drug and alcohol policy. There is a minimum penalty of 45 days out, which counts as expulsion. Possession of look-alike weapons is also up to eight offenses from none.

And while detentions are down from an average of 250 per month to 85 per month, failure to serve detentions is up 4 percent from last year to a total of 12 percent. Dr. Parry believes this number will

drop near the end of the year because of the Prom and graduation. He also thinks that returning students will not want to make up detentions carried over from this year and will serve them soon.

On the brighter side, most of the other categories show a decrease in offenses, while others show at least a stagnation in growth.

Superintendent Dr. DePaul said, "I truly believe that [the schoolboard's] development of policy, a long with their dedication to providing three administrators at the high school, is a key to our success...These administrators do an outstanding job in this area."

Dr. Parry credits the decrease to "team action." The partnership of Mr. Mullen and Mr.

Roman, along with teachers' and students' cooperation has really lowered violations.

They contract parents much more frequently now, and they seem to be reinforcing what the school says. Dr. Parry also mentioned, "I think teachers are doing a much better job of identifying problems and referring them to the administration." He believes, "students themselves have matured enough to know they're not going to get away with it."

With everyone's cooperation and support, these numbers can continue to drop. As it stands, though, Ambridge can be proud of the significant improvements it has made.

Baseball teams has eyes on sectional title

by Bryan Hooks

The 1997 Boys' Varsity Baseball team is looking forward to one of their best seasons ever.

The team consists of eleven seniors this year. They have been practicing strenuously six days a week. The coaches are John Baker, Bill Guereri and Mike Marvin.

Last year, the teams record was 7-5 in the section. This year, everyone is focused on winning the section and improving from last year. Ambridge had two exhibitions so far. They defeated Center 7-6 and North Hills 8-1. When asked how he expects the team to do this season, senior Jack Hogan replied,

"If we play like I know we can, I know we will win a lot of games!"

The season will consist of nineteen games. Ambridge will be well tested when they face Quad A teams such as North Allegheny and Shaler. The rival games to watch will be against Hopewell and West Allegheny.

This year, a lot of work is being put into the home field next to the high school. Work on it has been needed for a long time. When asked how he feels this year compares to last year, senior Rob Appel ended with, "This season, we have a lot more experience, leadership and young guys which are all factors in getting the job done."

Restaurant Review Cont..

chips and salsa. The food tastes fresh and flavorful. It is spicy yet not too spicy. It reminds you of the type of food you would eat if you visited an old Aztec Indian village.

There is a wide selection to choose from on the menu including the many enchilada varieties and, for the more American appetite, the cheesburgusa. The prices of the meals range from about five to ten dollars. So the next time you are going out to eat, I would definitely suggest giving Don Pablo's a try.

Visit Baden...

...The other part of the Ambridge Area School District

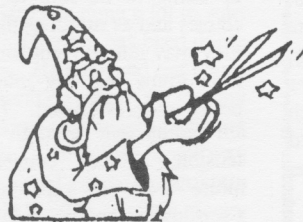
OPEN SUNDAYS

BEAVER VALLEY FLORAL

SERVING THE BEAVER VALLEY

511 State Street
Baden, Pennsylvania 15005
RAY KURASH, Owner 412/869-0220

Bring this ad in for a FREE rose!
Offer expires 5-27-97



Scissor Wizards

A Nail & Hair Salon

869-8830

540 State Street
Baden, PA 15005

Prom Special:

1 Month Unlimited Tanning- \$32

The building of TSA

by Emily DelGreco

What could possibly be built with twenty strands of pasta and ten marshmallows? TSA students could build a scale model of the Ambridge bridge or better yet, design their own bridge to span a specified distance, most impressively of all, the can do this in just one class period. Quite an accomplishment for what started out as some pasta and marshmallows...

This is exactly the type of thing that a TSA student specializes in: the integration of knowledge and hands-on ability. TSA or the Technology Students' Association is a group of high school students who perform in-depth studies in areas like structural engineering and industrial materials. Using their knowledge, they design structures or prepare speeches to enter in state-wide competition. While many hear of these competitions and the winners, very few people realize what it takes to be a member of TSA.

Before technology became a key part of society, TSA was known as the American Industrial Arts



Student Association or AIASA for short. The group dealt mainly in woodworking, sheet metal, foundry operation and other industrial arts. In the 1980-81 school year, Mr. Alan Klaich, along with five other AIASA sponsors representing various regions of Pennsylvania, agreed to update AIASA into TSA. This was done with five basic principles in mind, those being: recognition for students, school service, community service, leadership training and fundraising. "And not necessarily in that order," commented Mr. Klaich. He said it was "the integration of the computer that enhanced" the basis of AIASA into TSA. In 1987, TSA was

offered as a one credit course.

For Ambridge, the result has been "one of the broadest based TSA groups in all of Pennsylvania," said Mr. Klaich. Several new competition areas have been added through the years, not to mention the necessary rules changes. Many areas have remained the same, however, such as the Metric 500 Contest which requires contestants to build and race a wooden model car considering aerodynamics and other components that would affect the construction of a real car. An example of new technology influencing the competition has been the addition of Mechanical Systems. This competition requires a student

to build a vehicle using specialized Lego building blocks and write a computer program to command the vehicle to move in a specified path. Ambridge has had a successful history in both TSA and AIASA competitions winning the "Outstanding Chapter" award for seven consecutive years. This award is given to groups who have displayed outstanding quality of leadership, ability of membership, school and community services, workmanship and school pride. This success has been reflective of the strong leadership of co-advisors Mr. Dennis DeAngelis and Mr. Klaich, who have both won "Outstanding Chapter Advisor" in the past. Mr. Eunson, Zupsic and Heitzenreiter have also played integral parts in the development of Ambridge TSA.

The most impressive work, however, has been done by the student members who are consistently awarded for their work at regional and state competitions. While these students are extremely talented and dedicated, it is hard to realize the extent of their loyalty

continued on page 7

Make Earth Day Everyday

by Mike Cody

Whether environmentalists like it or not, Earth Day has lost most of the passion and meaning that the holiday had during its inception. April 22 marks the twenty-seventh anniversary of Earth Day, which was originally designed to call a number of important environmental issues to national attention. The holiday's message was grim: we are running out of food and space; we are driving our fellow creatures to extinction; we are destroying important resources like air, land, and water. However, Earth Day brought out a strange sense of optimism in its celebrants. Even though humans were destroying their own planet, they had determined a need to make changes.

Jonathan Ela was a founder of the Midwest office of the environmentalist group Sierra Club. In an editorial published on the twenty-fifth anniversary of Earth Day, Ela commented frankly on the holiday's past and present.

"To many of the disaffected,"

Ela said, "environmentalism seemed to be the one subject to which the nation was responsive in 1970- the environmental movement was an island of optimism in a truly dismal social and political atmosphere." But as for the present day attitude toward Earth Day, Ela's thoughts were not exactly glowing.

"Earth Day has lost its sense of social challenge, of charismatic revivalism," said Ela. "Over the years it has become progressively fuzzier and more unfocused."

The lack of focus Ela mentioned is only one of the many pressing problems involving Earth Day. A few short years ago, environmentalism seemed like a cause that everyone could rally behind. Children were told to be "earth smart", parents learned how to recycle. But lately, the zeal of Earth Day's celebrants has been replaced by a growing sense of content with the way things are. The media hasn't helped much to stop perpetuating the attitude that environmentalism is unimportant. Rush Limbaugh calls Greenpeace

and PETA members "environmentalist wackos". Beavis and Butthead torture their spaced-out tree-hugging teacher, Mr. Van Driessen. These factors lead up to one undeniable fact.

Earth Day just isn't hip anymore.

Of course, this current backlash against environmentalism is probably just a phase. Eventually, people will reawaken to the needs of the Earth. Still, the general public's apathy has caused quite a headache for environmentalist groups. The Sierra Club recently appointed the youngest president in its history, partially to appeal to the younger,

MTV-influenced crowd.

With all the recent pushes for youth and the public's lack of enthusiasm, it seems almost sad that the real messages of Earth Day have gotten mangled and changed throughout the years. We are all one people living on one planet. The Earth needs everyone to make a difference and work towards a cleaner tomorrow. Hopefully, the current apathy will end soon. After all, there's a lot of work out there to be done.

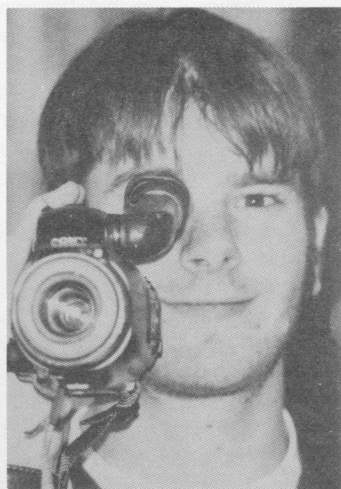
CLIFF ROEHN

PHOTOGRAPHY

568 Merchant Street
Ambridge, PA 15003

412-266-9229

DFC provides creative atmosphere



by Peggy Madonna

One of the most interesting and productive clubs here at Ambridge Area High School is the Documentary Film Club. The club not only films all school events, but also produces and edits a video

which tries to accurately summarize the activities of students in the high school.

DFC, which was started in 1978, was originally started and sponsored by Mr. Klaich. The club films all school events throughout the school year such as various sports, band and chorus concerts, talent shows and everyday occurrences in the school.

This year the club has had some new projects in addition to the video yearbook. The club also produced a farewell tape for Superintendent Duplaga. The project was headed by Andy Mine and Dan Newmeyer. The traveled to every school within the district for footage to incorporate in the tape. The club also filmed and produced a commercial for the district which aired on Fox during the televised basketball tournaments at Ambridge.

Mr. Hladio, the current Documentary Film Club sponsor

really enjoys volunteering his time to the club. "It is a creative outlet for people interested in video production," said Mr. Hladio. He also takes time outside of school to pursue his personal interest in video production, which had been a hobby of his long before working with the students.

As of now, the club has approximately 30 members and anybody is welcome to join. The only requirement is participation in the club. All members are asked to attend school events throughout the year to film for the video yearbook. Officers are given the responsibility of editing the footage. Once the tape is finished, the video yearbook is then marketed and is put on sale to students and the community. Not only is the video yearbook viewed by students, but it also gives the community and idea of what events are taking place within the school. All money made by the club is put

into paying for the video yearbook and the maintenance and purchase of equipment.

The club's only complaint is the lack of time and space to work. But there are high hopes for classes in video production to be taught here in the future. Mr. Hladio feels that if DFC were to become a class rather than a club "our product would be even better." But, Mr. Hladio is glad about changes being made in the school which will better suit the club's filming needs for lighting and sound.

All members of DFC show a great amount of desire and interest in the club. Many hours are spent filming and editing tape to work toward a common goal. The efforts of the club are greatly appreciated and enjoyed by the student body.

The building of TSA cont'...

without being aware of their continuous fund raising and community service efforts. Since its birth, IASA and eventually TSA have incorporated a strong spirit of school and community service and have supported this spirit non-stop with numerous contracts to paint park benches, create and maintain signs and silk-screen tee-shirts and banners. TSA has fund raised for

organizations like Give a Christmas and the Make a Wish Foundation. The group also donates their time and talents to Student Council, the Prom Committee, Old Economy, Walter Panek Park, the Ambridge Chamber of Commerce and the Bridger Garnet and Gray Club.

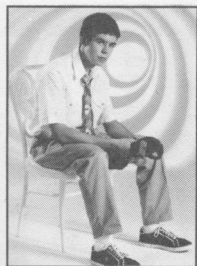
Because conferences often require extensive admission fees, TSA students are also responsible for

funding these trips. They fund raise year round, selling anything that is not "illegal, immoral or fattening," said Mr. Klaich. This includes pizza and hoagies, as well as tee-shirts and pall-bearer services for Walter Kasper Funeral Home. All of these fund raisers have required the commitment and, in many cases, the imagination of the students which also happen to be the basis for the

group's success. Said senior TSA member Baby Mine, "TSA means teamwork, competition and togetherness."

While they are high school students, TSA members often are required to display enormous amounts of maturity. "That's a very good word [to describe them], said Mr. Klaich. While attending conferences, contestants are to adhere to a strict dress code which requires males to wear sport coats at all times and females to wear conservative "business-like" attire. Students are also given a code of behavior by which they must abide during each conference.

The future of TSA is in technology. The ever-changing computer industry has already contributed to new areas such as CAD (Computer-aided drafting), CAM (Computer-aided mechanics) and robotics. "We hope to integrate our technology with science," said Mr. DeAngelis. TSA is not only technology and research, however. TSA is the students: the service they give to the community and the leadership training they receive in return. As the 1989-90 TSA chapter record book states: "The motivation is tremendous!"



T.R. McCLELLAN
PHOTOGRAPHY

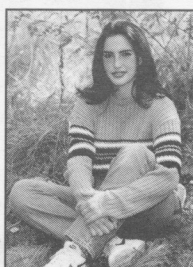
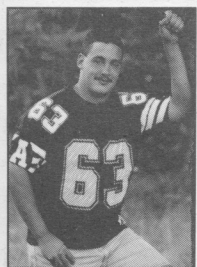
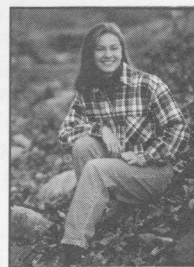
75% OFF

ANY SENIOR PHOTO SESSION

IN MAY

Broadhead Road Hopewell Township

375-0101



Mr. Zana jazzes it up



by Sarah Clark

For nearly 35 years, schools in the present-day Ambridge Area School District have been fortunate to have a very gifted and energetic music instructor. Mr. Richard Zana has taught choruses, bands and even steel drum ensembles throughout the district since 1962.

Mr. Zana, who is now well known in the junior high and high school, started his career in the Baden-Economy elementary schools. Fresh out of college, he was hired to

teach chorus classes to grade-school students. In 1972, when Baden-Economy merged with Ambridge, Mr. Zana also began teaching at the Ambridge schools. Since then, he has taught music at every school in the district with the exceptions of Anthony Wayne and Highland elementary schools.

For the past ten years, it has been band students who have benefitted from Mr. Zana's musical genius. Band is the field of music he was originally trained for, and he has done extremely well in it. The Ambridge marching band is known for its spectacular drum line, which is under Mr. Zana's direction.

When asked how he came up with the idea for a steel drum ensemble, Mr. Zana replied, "When I came here 10 years ago, Mr. Aloe said 'would you rather have a pit band- a pit percussion group- of marimbas, xylophones and

glockenspiels and timpani, or would you rather have steel drums?' And I said I would rather have steel drums."

Because of his dedication to music, Mr. Zana is receiving an award from district five of the Pennsylvania Music Educator's Association (PMEA). The award is a kind of teacher of the year award which is given once a year for "outstanding work in the field of music education." Candidates must have a reference form a fellow music teacher. In this case, Mr. Aloe nominated Mr. Zana.

This will definitely not be the first music award Mr. Zana has received. He was named Teacher of the Year here at Ambridge high several years ago, has directed award-winning choruses and even had a guitar group play at a PMEA state conference.

Awards and such are a nice

perk, but when it comes right down to it, Mr. Zana knows what the *really* important part of his job is. He describes it as, "Getting the kids the love of music through whatever avenue it is." He also loves "The interaction between the kids and the music and me."

Some people never figure out what they are supposed to do with their life, while others always know what they are meant to accomplish. Mr. Zana is definitely in the second group. "Some people never know what they want to be," he says. "But at a very young age, I knew I was going to be a music teacher...I'd say in fourth grade. It was like a destiny. Some people have that luck that they're able to do that." Be it luck or destiny, Ambridge Area High School is blessed to have a teacher like Mr. Zana.

Part Three

by Joey Kulik

The *Star Wars* trilogy has now been completed with the release of *Return of the Jedi* Special Edition. In this sixth episode The Galactic Empire is constructing a new Death Star, even more powerful than the first. Han Solo is still frozen in carbonite and Luke Skywalker's completion of his Jedi training relies on him confronting his father. How will things turn out? Well, the Death Star is destroyed, Emperor Palpatine is killed, Darth Vader dies after he is turned back to the good side of the force and Han Solo is freed from the carbonite.

Sure, everyone knows this, so how can *Return of the Jedi* be better? By adding a herd of banthas, that is how! *Return of the Jedi* featured new scenes, as did *Star Wars* and *The Empire Strikes Back*, among them were banthas crossing the desert and a new musical number in Jabba the Hutt's palace. The most impressive of these scenes was the new ending footage. Before the famous Ewok celebration, other celebrations are shown on Cloud City, Tatooine and Imperial City. These new scenes gave the movie a

nice finishing touch because they wrapped up the entire trilogy with a better understanding that the Galactic Empire has finally been defeated.

Return of the Jedi is a *Star Wars* movie and that is why I gave it an infinite number of stars. However, it is extremely depressing knowing that this is the last *Star Wars* film until the *Star Wars* prequels are released in 1999. Until then we can all keep ourselves entertained by watching the *Star Wars* trilogy on video, reading the *Star Wars* fan club magazine, spending hard earned money on collecting *Star Wars* action figures and giving up our lives playing *Star Wars* video games.



DOLORES MASON'S HAIR SALON

"Distinctive Styling For Distinctive People"

203 Bradford Park Road
Baden, PA 15005

(412) 869-0648

BASILON FORMAL WEAR

PROM TUX SPECIAL

\$29.95 Black Peak, Christian Dior

\$25.00 off Designer Tuxedos

Cannot be used with any other offer or promotion.

7 Locations Ambridge - 266-1432



Bridger Review



Music Review

by Doug Costa

Spring is full upon us, and summer is coming. In honor of this, I have decided to review a band that produces the perfect "summer music": G. Love and Special Sauce. Though not everyone has heard of them, and I have yet to hear them being played on the radio or on TV, they are worth checking out, especially since it is the time of year when the days get warmer and the nights get longer.

Their first, self-titled album is a blend of blues, jazz, hip-hop, rap and funky rock 'n' roll. This is their basic formula, although on this album they showcase their hard-edged, rap side. The entire album has a raw, loose feel, with subject matter to go with it. This is not a band that is out to change the world; they are just talking about real life and making people smile (though if more people would do that, the world just might change after all). The second song, "Blues Music," basically tells the G. Love story from top to bottom, and it is a good primer on their distinctive sound. Many of their songs keep with a traditional blues theme, if not a traditional style; "Garbage Man" is one such song. It tells, with no understatement, of G. Love's great prowess with women, and after hearing this song, you'll believe him. It is important to note that, later on the album, he sings about the joys of being happily stuck on a girl, in "Baby's Got Sauce." This album also contains what has probably become their best known song, the fantastic "Cold Beverage." If you like your music happy and fun, and with PLENTY of beat, this is the album for you.

Their second album, *Coast to Coast Motel*, is also a must have. It has a more mellow sound, with most of the songs containing singing, as opposed to the lazily rapped vocals which dominated the first release. This album contains the first G. Love song that I ever heard, "Sweet Sugar Mama." When I first heard the group's name, I thought it was a joke, but from the very

beginning of that song, I knew that I had found something I could get into. It is a love song as only G. Love could tell it, and it still remains my favorite song of theirs. This album has many different elements, from the rap of "Tomorrow Night" to the bouncing country rock of "Everybody" to the soulful acoustic number "Coming Home". The fun is still in great supply, especially on the jazzy rap of "Soda Pop" and in the friendly advice of "Kiss and Tell", both of which are sure to bring a smile to your face. If you prefer a mellower edge on your music, *Coast to Coast Motel* is the album for you. It is full of G. Love's trademark hip-hop beats, with a bluesier fell placed on top.

The best thing about G. Love is that they write real music that real people can relate to. Whether they are playing basketball, trying to talk to girls or just relaxing in the sunshine, these guys do the things that you and your friends do, they just have G. Love telling us his stories. Give it a chance, and you will want to hear them all summer (and winter) long. Trust me.



Video Review

by Emily DelGreco

"I believe in America . . ." These were the timeless first words of a movie that was to ironically form an integral piece of American culture almost immediately.

The first glimpse of *The Godfather* given to the public was an image of Marlon Brando holding a striped tabby cat in his large hands, caressing its shoulder yet constraining its head. An ideal picture because as Mario Puzo, *The Godfather's* author, described his novel, "It's about the very nature of power." Ten Academy Award nominations and two sequels later, *The Godfather* celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary on March 21 with a nationwide release.

To someone who has not seen the film, it is hard to explain or describe the story because it is not just another gangster movie, but rather the gangster movie of all time. The entire Coppola family set a

Hollywood standard in epic film with Francis directing, Carmine composing and conducting the original score, Talia Coppola-Shire in a starring role and even infant Sofia debuting in the baptism scene. Creating stars out of such cast members as Al Pacino, Diane Keaton, James Caan and Robert Duvall, *The Godfather's* lingering presence is still felt today.

My first impression of the film came during some research that I was doing for a term paper about the Mafia. In my reading I found the confessions of several Mafioso who admitted that they had tried to model their own families after the Corleones who are depicted in the movie, going so far as to wear the same formal attire. It was, I believe, the first movie to influence the technique of organized crime, a powerful and at the same time dangerous accomplishment.

The film also attained new dramatic heights by developing one of the most distinguished and celebrated ensemble casts of theatrical talent. Even bit parts were done to perfection by hand-chosen character actors matched with young unknowns.

In 1972, Marlon Brando's career was stagnating: he had lost his niche in the movie industry with such failures as *The Night of the Following Day* and little-appreciated artistic features like *Burn*. His comeback in *The Godfather* could not have been any more effective. Reading the script from cue cards and appearing in only a small portion of the film, Brando won Best Actor at the Academy Awards that year for his chillingly accurate portrayal of Don Vito Corleone. Yet, it was hard to overshadow the talents of a younger Al Pacino who would go on to star in both of the film's sequels. His first and best remembered part as Michael Corleone set the standard for other Mafia movies to come, yet no one could touch Pacino's depiction garnished with realism and fantasy, fear and humor.

The film received and in some cases still receives criticism from viewers who believe that Puzo and Coppola were trying to document Mafia life in a dramatic film. To anyone who has seen the film it is clear that historical accuracy was not the purpose of the

picture. While certain characters may have been modeled after real life criminals, the Corleone family was fictitious. They continue to fascinate audiences with their brilliance and fanatical ways and by revealing, all details aside, the dangerous abuse of power of organized crime.

The gangster movies of the present draw audiences mainly on the principle of shock value and special effects. None of these has been able to touch their legendary predecessor. Before *Scarface* and *Goodfellas*, *Dick Tracy* and *Casino* there was *The Godfather*: a film of family loyalty and criminal vengeance.



Restaurant Review

by Jaime Cole

Whenever you are hungry for Mexican food, you always go to that place that comes out clapping and singing with a big hat for people's birthdays... right? Well that is the only Mexican restaurant in the area... isn't it? Finally there is someplace new and exciting to go for Mexican food. Don Pablo's is located in MacIntyre Square on McKnight Road in North Hills.

When you walk through the doors, you get the feeling that you are in a southern Mexico resort on a cool summer night. Brightly colored Chinese lanterns hang from the ceiling. Exotic plants in large terracotta pots are scattered throughout the two-story establishment. The first floor consists of the actual restaurant, and the bar is located on the upper level.

The food is very authentic, with their own freshly made tortilla

STAR RATING SYSTEM

- ★★★★ Da Bomb
- ★★★ Better than a Mentos Commerical
- ★★ My Mom liked it
- ★ I'd rather do Calculus

Track condition hinders runners

by Nicole Webb

Being a track athlete requires a balance of both dedication and determination. Ambridge is fortunate in that many of the boys and girls who are on the track team possess this unique balance. This season, the coaching staff will try to harness the talent of the track team and hopefully make it to the playoffs.

Track is an individual sport as well as a team sport. Senior Molly Andrews said, "There's no one else to blame if you screw up. It's all you. You are your own motivation." She likes the individuality of the sport of track.

That's not to say that there is no team spirit among the Ambridge track team. Junior Livia Wright said, "Everyone really cheers on one

another and supports the other members in their events."

There are approximately 25 girls and 28 boys on the track teams. The boys have 18 events and the girls have 17 events. The track team practices everyday after school until 4:15 P.M. Practices are grueling and strenuous. Andrews said that every day is a different workout. Wright said, "The most difficult thing is running in the rain (sometimes even snow) and freezing cold."

Senior Hoby Schweikert has been running track for six years. Because he is a distance runner, his practices are different from Andrews's and Wright's. He and the other distance runners will run to J.C. Amoroso's store or to Quaker Valley. There are many times in practice when he will be sore or tired, but he forces himself to forget

about the pain. Hoby said, "You don't think you can do it but you always do."

Coach Charles Price is pleased with the number of students on the track team. He said there has been a good turnout everyday. This is Coach Price's tenth year as a coach for Ambridge and his ninth year as head coach. His experience as a coach should make his predictions for this year reliable. Of this year's girls' season, he says, "Section-wise, I'm looking for them to go 3-3." He predicts that the boys will be an over 500 team.

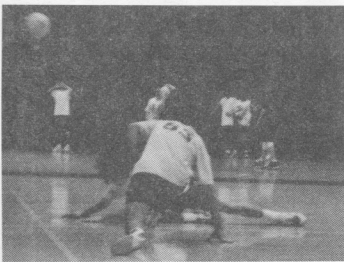
One of the main hurdles that the track team must overcome this year is the poor condition of the home track. The high school track is chipped and missing pieces. It is also in need of paint. Many athletes are suffering from shinsplits and injuries that are a direct result of the

track's condition.

Assistant business manager of Ambridge Area School District, Jef Wall estimates that the cost of fixing the track will be in the range of \$40,000-\$45,000. He stated, "Portions of the track need to be resurfaced. To have a standard that we would like to have, we really need to resurface the track." Mr. Wall has submitted a proposal to the school board. He said it is up to them to approve it for next season.

If the track team can overcome the obstacle of a poor home track and if the predictions of Coach Price hold true, the track team will have an exciting season. As Schweikert and the other members of the track team will be able to push the team to new limits and make it to the playoffs.

Boys' Volleyball struggling



by Rich Dugan

The 1997 Boys' Varsity Volleyball team faces the difficult task of losing three all star players and remaining competitive this season.

The Bridgers started their year with a poor 1-13 record in

tournament play. However, coach Dennis Damp believes his squad is beginning to gel and should be competitive in a playoff chase. Leading the charge are seniors Shawn Valenta, who is a setter, and outside hitters Mike Glumac and Ryan Priore. The team's biggest strengths are outstanding team work and a superb defensive game. However, they lack the size and power of rivals Montour, Hopewell, Farell and Our Lady of Sacred Heart.

The Ambridge Boys' Volleyball team is an example of how team work can overcome certain inabilities. Hopefully, these abilities will lead to a section title.

Defense is the game

by Rich Dugan

The Ambridge Varsity Softball Team got off to a fast start this season defeating local rival Monaca 2-0.

Coach Dean Flemming believes that this year's team is capable of winning the Section II crown this season. The team is led by starting right fielder Stephanie Szabo and a superb defense.

Standing in the way of the Bridgers' title hopes are a strong Beaver Falls squad and a lack of power throughout their lineup. Their team plays extremely well in the field together and has an above average pitching staff. However, they aren't going to score a lot of runs, which means the Bridgers will be forced to win close games, similar to their first victory.



Helene's
FASHION COLONY

The store with more:
Selection - Service - Savings

* Homecoming	* Xmas Dances
* Prom Dresses	* Tuxedos
* Jewelry	* Shoes
* Lingerie and Accessories	

New selection of dance dresses arriving in time for all of your upcoming special occasions. Shop early for best selections. All dresses registered.

717 Merchant Street Ambridge, PA 15003
266-3400

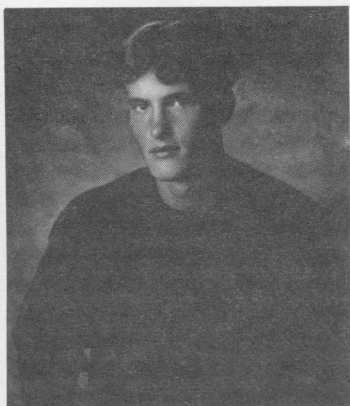
Memorable Photography
By Walter Sickles

706 Ridge Road, Ambridge

* Portraits	* Miniatures	* Groups
* Weddings		* Copies

266-9060

Neese widens his focus



by Bryan Hooks

Within the walls of Ambridge High School, a supreme track athlete exists. This person is senior Jim Neese.

Jim has been active in sports for most of his life. He played baseball for eight years, basketball for six years, football for four years, volleyball for three years and his pride and joy, track, for six years. I feel that is important to say, being a friend of the Neese family, that a day did not go by without Jim's parents backing him up at all of his games and meets.

Jim is the high jump record holder in Ambridge and Beaver

county at the height of 6 feet 9.5 inches. He was the 1996 W.P.I.A.L. high jump champion. In 1995, Jim placed fourth in the high jump at the Junior Olympic Nationals in San Jose, California. At the East Coast Invitational in Maryland in 1996, Neese placed first in the Decathlon, which consists of ten events. Jim was named to be on the All-state Track team this year. He also received All-state Honorable Mention for volleyball in 1996. When asked if he ever expected to succeed this far, Neese replied, "Never, I was always average at everything. I didn't begin to excel until the eighth grade." Also, when asked who has influenced his accomplishments, Neese declared, "My parents, they have always pushed me to do better and would catch me if I fell."

This track season, Neese is training to better himself in a wide variety of events, not just the high jump. He stated that a possibility of a state championship in the high jump still exists. In high school track events, only four events are permitted by each person. Jim plans to rotate with the various decathlon events.

Jim has also been involved with the Wings of Moon Track Club

for five years. For the last two years, Jim has been a captain. This club was formed to compete in summer meets such as Junior Olympics. To get practice and keep in shape, Neese has many training routines. These involve step running, weightlifting, sprint work, hurdle practice, throwing events and, his specialty, the high jump.

Track and Field is definitely Neese's favorite sport. He says this is because it is more or less an individual sport. If you win, all the glory is yours and if you lose, there is no one else to blame. After being asked what his best moment in sports was, Neese replied, "when I first took up high jumping, my goal was one day to hold the Ambridge High record. Doing so in eleventh grade was great because it relieved the pressure for my senior year." On the other hand, when asked about his worst moment in sports, Neese said, "The states the last two years. This isn't that I didn't win but because I know I was better than I performed." When asked his favorite pre-game meal Neese added, "anything that my mother cooks." When the question of a role model came up, Neese said, "I take little bits from every person who

comes into my life. There is no one person whom I wish to mold my life around."

Neese's interests include hunting, fishing, being in nature, weightlifting and spending time with his girlfriend. In a quick commentary, Neese stated, "I would like to thank my girlfriend. It takes a special person to stick with me because of my demanding schedule."

This summer, Jim is thinking about going back to the East Coast Invitational to see if he can set a decathlon record. He also plans to help coach the Wings of Moon Track Club. Neese has received over one hundred letters from interested colleges. He was awarded a full athletic scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh. Jim has also received financial offers from Penn State and Bucknell but they were neglected. Neese is not sure about his major, but he says he will probably start out with arts and sciences following it into the field of medicine. When asked what he thinks his future holds, Neese ended with, "My future is still wide open. I can be anything I put my mind to, and I am sure I will take advantage of that."

Tennis team struggles through season

by Bryan Hooks

The 1997 Ambridge Boys' Tennis Team is having a very reluctant season.

The team's top players consist of Jon Markvan, Doug Costa, Tom Pelligrini, Dan Newmeyer and Mike Colonna. The team is coached by coach Frank Sangermano. The team is practicing hard every day after school.

With all of the seniors on the team, there are different opinions on their lack of wins. A comment was made about the poor, cracked tennis courts that Ambridge has to call "home." Others point out the fact that there is actually little competition playing experience amidst the team.

On April 10, the annual

MAC tennis tournament took place. Ambridge did not fare too well. Only one team made it to the second round but that's where it ended. About 10 to 15 teams around western Pennsylvania were involved.

Tennis matches continue until the middle of May. Jon Markvan expects the team to win some matches. When asked if he feels if he's playing as well as he can, senior Jon Markvan replied, "I suck, but I'll get back in the groove. Just remember, watch out for my dope rocket serve!"

The team hopes for fan support. Good luck and have an enjoyable season!

ERACERS

GO-KART
PARK



SUCK TRACK • SPRINT KARTS • ROAD COURSE
INDY TRACK • BUMPER BOATS • KIDDIE KARTS (ages 3 to 10) • ARCADE

FEATURING

Wild West Miniature Golf

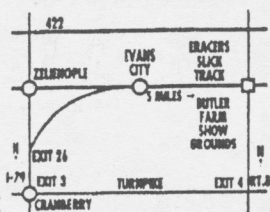
APRIL - M-F 6-10 - SAT-SUN 12-10
MAY - EVE & WEEKENDS 6-10
JUNE-AUG - 7 DAYS 12-10
SEPT - EVE & WEEKENDS 6-10
OCT - M-F 6-10 - SAT-SUN 12-10



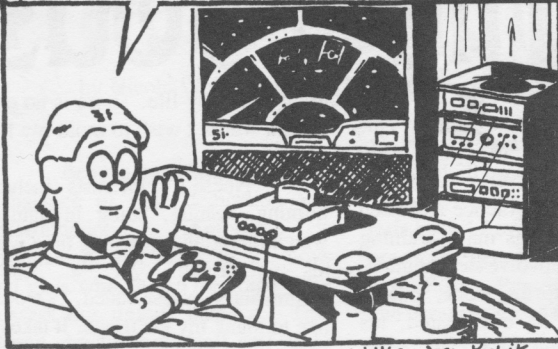
ASK ABOUT OUR
PARTY RATES

(412) 482-2555

4 MILES WEST OF BUTLER, PA
ON RT. 68 (EVANS CITY RD.)



Hey kids! I don't feel like drawing...I mean I have very special guest...artists drawing this issue, entitled..



— Little Joey Kulik

EARL THE SUPERHERO

V.S. SENIOR-TIS!

By: Little Joey Kulik
with Guest artists:



Rich



Ben



Jaclyn



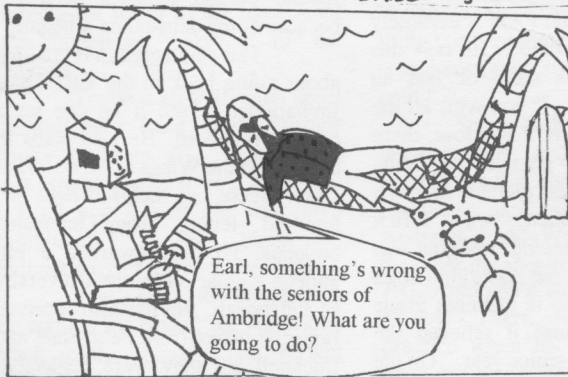
Dan



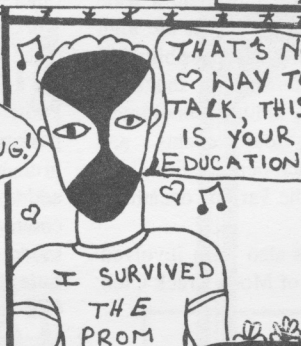
Jon



"Bob"



Rich Kozma



By: Jaclyn R. Kuzash



D. KING
THE END

Hey kids! Do you think you know Earl's secret identity? Well, if you do, you have the chance to win **IT BIG**. To enter just write down who you think Earl is with your name, section and shoe size. Then send it to room B-8



or give it to a staff member. The prize includes \$15, SPAM, a FREE video year book, and Earl's utility fanny pak filled with "goodies". If more than one person is to win a winner will be drawn. Enter as many times as you like, staff members are ineligible. **MAIL IT TODAY!** Read the May issue for winner.

